REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF HAMILTON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1862.

SALEM:
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1862.

REPORT.

THE School Committee for the year 1861–2, having attended to their duties with regard to the Schools in town, herewith present the following Report:

The amount of money appropriated for schools by the town was eight hundred dollars, which sum, together with the town's share of State School Fund of 30\frac{81}{100}$ was equally divided among the four districts, giving to each district 207\frac{70}{100}$ to be expended.

The town at the annual meeting gave the several districts the liberty and power to appropriate the money in each district as they saw fit, and also to the Prudential Committees power to select and contract with the Teachers for the Schools in their respective districts.

The Prudential Committee have peformed their duties with fidelity, and presented to the Committee, in every instance, Teachers who bore very creditable examinations.

NORTH DISTRICT SCHOOL.

SUMMER TERM. Miss ELLEN S. COOK, of Wakefield, N. H., Teacher.

Money appropriated by the District, $75. Length of School for the Summer Term, 15 weeks. Wages of Teacher per month, $20. Amount

received in full, $75. Whole number of Scholars, 40. Average attendance of Scholars, 31. Number under five years of age, 3. Number over fifteen, 1.

WINTER TERM. Mr. Charles A. Sayward, of Ipswich, Teacher.

Length of School, 11 weeks. Wages of Teacher per month, $35. Whole number of Scholars, 45. Average attendance of Scholars, 33. Number over fifteen, 11.

EAST DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM. Miss Sarah E. Webster, Teacher.

Length of School, 3 3-4 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $20. Whole number of Scholars, 25. Average attendance, 20 1-3. Number under five years of age, 2.

WINTER TERM. Mr. Solomon E. Kimball of Wenham, Teacher.

Length of School, 3 1-4 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $35. Whole number of Scholars, 29. Average attendance, 22 5-26. Number over fifteen years of age, 11.

SOUTH DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM. Miss Sophia F. Lovering of Hamilton, Teacher.

Length of School, 3 1-2 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $20. Whole number of Scholars, 47. Average attendance, 34. Number under five years of age, 1. Number over fifteen years of age, 2.

WINTER TERM. Zeno A. Appleton, Esq., of Hamilton, Teacher.

Length of School, 3 1-4 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $35. Whole number of Scholars, 44. Average attendance of Scholars, 34. Number over fifteen years of age, 10.

WEST DISTRICT.

SUMMER TERM. Miss Sarah W. Dodge, of Hamilton, Teacher.

Length of School, Summer term, 2 3-4 months; Fall term 2 1-4 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $14. Whole number of Scholars, 42. Average attendance, 34. Number under five years of age, 1.

WINTER TERM. Mr. Isaac F. Porter of Wenham, Teacher.

Length of School, 3 1-2 months. Wages of Teacher per month, $30. Whole number of Scholars, 40. Average attendance, 30. Number over fifteen years of age, 2.

The Prudential Committees in the several districts were very fortunate in their selection of Teachers for the Schools, and the Teachers have used their utmost exertions in all cases for the improvement of the Schools under their care, and have succeeded in giving a general satisfaction throughout the town. The closing examinations showed that their labor has not been lost to the scholars under their charge.

THE SPELLER.

Your Committee have required a daily, constant use of the Spelling Book in the Schools the past year. A book that many teachers at the present day appear to think but little of, but one that we think lies at the foundation of the course of study required in acquiring a good common school education.

Good spelling requires much study; and the scholar who learns to spell well in the common school will never forget it; whereas, one who leaves the common school deficient in that branch of study, no matter

how far he may be advanced in the higher branches of study, as they are called, will seldom if ever afterward learn to spell correctly.

We would recommend to the Committee to keep the Speller in daily use the coming season, as we think that the scholars, particularly the younger classes, will be much more benefited by an increased attention to it, than they can be by going into the Arithmetic, Grammar, &c., before they know enough of spelling to write the names of the studies, or the terms they use in them, correctly on the slate.

Your Committee are pleased to congratulate the town upon the good success of the Schools the past year, and are of the opinion that the money expended upon them, has been applied in a manner that should meet the approbation of all.

WM. A. BROWN,
JOSEPH P. LOVERING,
BENJ. W PATCH,
} *School Committee.*

HAMILTON, March, 1862.

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